BOOK REVIEWS

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Age-Related Dopamine-Dependent Disorders. Edited by N SEGAWA and Y NOMURA. (Pp 225 $192.00). Published by Karger, Basel 1995. ISBN 3-8055-5960-7.

This book summarises in 27 short chapters the proceedings of a symposium held in November 1993 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Segawa Neurological Clinic for Children. It therefore is not surprising that a large section of this book is devoted to the condition of dopa responsive dystonia (DRD). This rare condition is now thought to be identical to the hereditary progressive dystonia with marked diurnal fluctuation. Both of these conditions have been linked to the long arm of chromosome 14 and have as their pathology a disorder of dopamine turnover in the terminal boutons of the nigrostriatal pathway. The elucidation of this abnormality helps explain the sensitivity of the condition to low doses of levodopa, and the fact that the condition remains stable over time so that patients do not require increasing doses of medication with all its inherent complications.

This book, apart from providing chapters with information such as that discussed above, also presents many interesting speculations on the role of the dopaminergic system in disease and health. Admittedly at times this is rather limited but it nevertheless raises many interesting questions. For example the concept is advanced that rigidity and dystonia are a feature of early onset basal ganglia dopamine disturbances whilst parkinsonism and tremor are more characteristic of disorders in the aged system. Another example of this emphasis on interesting speculation is the notion of overlap between early onset Parkinson's disease, juvenile parkinsonism and DRD. This approach clearly has the potential to offer new insights into the pathogenesis of the much commoner late onset sporadic idiopathic Parkinson's disease (iPD). In this respect Leenders *et al* comment on the fact that dopamine supersensitivity in the striatum seems to be a consequence more of axonal loss of the dopaminergic projection from the nigra, rather than dopamine deficiency itself. Of course the lack of dopamine receptor supersensitivity in DRD may simply reflect the fact that there is still a basal release of adequate dopamine in the striatum and this in itself is capable of preventing receptor supersensivity.

However, although the book offers many interesting insights into the dopaminergic nigrostriatal system, there is a degree of repetition and some difficulty in seeing the relevance of certain chapters. For example the chapters on the pharmacology of the ventral striatum and the anatomy of locomotion seem a little misplaced in a book of this type. Furthermore although the chapters on basal ganglia neurosurgery give much food for thought, they seem to sit uneasily in this book where the basic disease for which they are used, namely iPD, is not really discussed. Conversely other chapters would have been welcome, whilst others would have benefited from relocation. For example a chapter on the anatomy and development of the nigrostriatal network would have made a useful opening chapter. Instead the anatomy of the basal ganglia was not explicitly discussed until section 2 of the book, and a clear developmental account was never forthcoming.

Overall the book does provide much useful information, both clinically and scientifically. Unfortunately though it fails to accurately define its subject matter and as such falls between two stools with not enough detail for the neuroscientist and too little clinical detail for the neurologist. Indeed more work on the commoner diseases of the basal ganglia (such as iPD) would have been welcome, and its omission will therefore greatly limit the appeal of this book.

ROGER BARKER

Immunology of Neuromuscular Disease. Edited by R. HOHLFELD. (Pp 299 £70.00.) Published by Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, Dordrecht 1994. ISBN 0-7923-8844-5.

Despite the self-evident areas of subject matter shared between this book and McLeod's *Inflammatory Neuropathies*, reviewed recently in these pages, the differences are in fact far greater than the sum, or rather the subtraction, of the parts. For although Professor Hohlfeld's book includes coverage of neuromuscular junction disorders and inflammatory diseases of muscle, it is in style and emphasis that the true differences lie. As the book and series titles suggest, *Immunology of neuromuscular disease* is aimed not only at clinical neurologists, but also at immunologists interested in the area (as well as those clinging by the finger tips to both stools).

For clinicians, there are outstanding accounts, brief but none the less comprehensive, of the neurological features, diagnosis and current therapy of Guillain-Barre syndrome, chronic inflammatory demyelinating neuropathy, and variants thereof, vasculitic neuropathy, Lambert Eaton myasthenic syndrome and neuromyotonia, myasthenia gravis, and idiopathic inflammatory myopathies. A chapter on retrovirus related neuromuscular disease is equally authoritative and informative but sits a little uneasily in a monograph which includes no other infective disorders, for example leprosy springs to mind as being of no less *immunological* relevance. An account of neuropathies associated with anti-myelin antibodies is perhaps a little ungainly, with a very great emphasis placed clinically on benign monoclonal IgM gammopathy, to the detriment of the electrophysiologically and clinically rather different neuropathies associated with other classes of benign paraproteinaemia, or indeed with malignant gammopathies. There is also much immunological attention devoted to the fine epitope tuning of the IgM antibody response, and an unfortunate howler also mars this chapter, namely the identification of C1q, C3d and C5 as "terminal complement complex".

This is a slight shame, as the forementioned chapters include detailed and very good descriptions of the immunological aspects of their subject diseases, mostly married with great success to the clinical accounts. Readers of an immunological persuasion receive additional sustenance from Wekerle's (too brief!) introductory chapter on immunological self tolerance and auto-immunity, Linington's excellent account of animal models of peripheral nerve disease, and a slightly patchier chapter on "Immunological factors that influence disease severity in experimental allergic myasthenia gravis".

On the whole this is an excellent book, Professor Hohlfeld having assembled and marshalled a formidable rank of coauthors. It is clear and well-structured, well-indexed and well-bibliographed, and works both as a source of casual reference, as a series of up to date reviews, and a detailed but manageable monograph. But how to advise the neurologist interested in purchasing this book and the also excellent *Inflammatory neuropathies*? Easy, so great are the differences—buy both.

NEIL SCOLDING

Approaches in Neurosurgery. By I MOHSENIPOUR, W-E GOLDHAHN, J FISCHER, W PLATZER and A POMAROLI. (Pp 229 298DM). Published by Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart, 1994. ISBN 3-13-100241-7.

This book provides a systematic approach to a large variety of surgical approaches to intra and extracranial regions, spine, and peripheral nerve. Each chapter is stereotyped, and they have presented the typical indications for surgery, principal anatomical structures involved, positioning of skin incisions etc. They then go on to provide technical details on these specific approaches. They finally offer advice regarding potential errors and dangers for each surgical procedure. Each chapter is illustrated by means of partially coloured drawings which are sparsely labelled.

The book has been written with the surgical trainee clearly in mind, but overall I feel the book would be of use to the more experienced surgeon with respect to some of the more unusual pathologies requiring approaches which are rarely undertaken. My main criticism relates to the illustrations which will be difficult to compare with the clinical setting. It would have been useful to have intraoperative pictures adjacent to the drawings for direct interpretation. The only other main criticism is that the stereotyped layout has resulted in considerable repetition. As such the book is best used as a reference manuscript for looking up specific approaches as and when they are required.

Despite the above reservations, I would still recommend this work to the training